

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8 and 12 have been amended and Claim 14 has been canceled by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 12 was objected to; Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hashimoto et al. (Hashimoto et al. '263); Claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hashimoto et al. (Hashimoto et al. '186); and Claims 8-11 were allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Regarding the objection to Claim 12, Claim 12 has been amended as suggested in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hashimoto et al. '263. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a plasma display device comprising a plasma display including a discharge cell having a first electrode and a second electrode, and a driving unit for driving the discharge cell by giving a potential difference between the first electrode and the second electrode. Further, the driving unit includes a pulse generation unit capable of generating a voltage pulse which continuously changes from a first voltage to a second final voltage. The driving unit controls the pulse generation unit to start outputting said voltage pulse as a voltage including the second voltage to be applied to the first electrode and then to stop the continuous change of the voltage pulse at the point of time when the voltage pulse reaches a third voltage between the first voltage and the second voltage.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 3 illustrates a CR pulse 20 which continuously changes from a ground potential (e.g., the first voltage) to the final voltage (the second voltage V_r). The driving unit controls the pulse generation unit to start outputting the voltage pulse as a voltage including the second voltage (V_r) to be applied to the first electrode and then to stop the continuous change of the voltage pulse at the point of time when the voltage pulse reaches a third voltage (V_{r1}) between the first voltage (ground potential) and the second voltage (V_r). Note the original pulse 20 including the second final voltage is stopped such that a voltage pulse 20A is applied.

Because application of the CR pulse 20A itself is stopped (or the CR pulse 20A falls) at the point of time when the voltage reaches the voltage V_{r1} , in other words, after the discharge is started, no unnecessary time is spent after the start of discharge. Therefore, by using the CR pulse 20A in, e.g., the reset period or the erase period (both of which are irrelevant to the display emission or display discharge), it is possible to reduce the reset period and the like. See page 39, lines 13-18.

The outstanding Office Action indicates Hashimoto et al. '263 teach the claimed invention and cites Figure 8. However, as shown in Figure 8, the voltage $Prx1$ is not stopped at a point of the time when the voltage pulse reaches a third voltage between a first voltage and a second final voltage. Rather, the second final voltage to be applied to the electrode is -170 volts. The voltage pulse $Prx1$ does not correspond to the voltage pulse of the claimed invention (e.g., as shown in Figure 3, for example, in which the voltage pulse 20A not the voltage pulse 20 including the second final voltage is applied).

The outstanding Office Action also indicates subject matter recited in Claim 1 is substantially disclosed in Figure 1 of Hashimoto et al. '263 because the pulse $Pry1$ in Figure 8 of Hashimoto et al. '263 begins to fall at the point of time when the pulse $Pry2$ in Figure 8 of Hashimoto et al. '263 reaches $-170V < 120V < 0V$. However, Applicants respectfully

submit this interpretation is contrary to Claim 1 of the present invention which recites that the voltage pulse to be applied to the first electrode reaches a third voltage. The outstanding Office Action regards the voltage pulse of the present invention as the other pulse Pry2 for the first electrode Y in the latter portion of the Office Action while recognizing the voltage pulse of the present invention as the pulse Pry1 for the second electrode X. Thus, it is respectfully submitted the outstanding Office Action's interpretation of the language of Claim 1 is not proper.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

Claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Hashimoto et al. '186. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 12 has been amended to include the subject matter recited in Claim 14, which is similar to that recited in amended Claim 1. That is, independent Claim 12 recites that the driving unit controls the pulse generation unit to start outputting the voltage pulse as a voltage including the second voltage to be applied to the first electrode, then to stop the change of the voltage pulse at the point of time when the voltage pulse reaches a third voltage between the first voltage and the second final voltage and thereafter to perform that operation for defining whether the discharge cells illuminated for display or not.

The outstanding Office Action indicates Hashimoto et al. '186 teach the claimed invention and cites the pulse Pry2 in Figures 5 and 10. Similar arguments apply to this rejection as that discussed above with respect to Claim 1. That is, the pulses in Figures 5 and 10 of Hashimoto et al. '186 are not stopped before the final voltage is applied, but rather gradually increase until the final voltage is applied. This differs from the claimed invention in which the voltage pulse as a voltage including the second voltage to be applied to the first

electrode is stopped at the point of time when the voltage pulse reaches a third voltage between the first voltage and the second voltage.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claim 12 and each of the claims depending therefrom are also allowable.

In addition, Figures 1 and 27 have been amended to correct minor informalities. In particular, Figure 1 is being amended to correctly depict the lines Y1, Y2 ... Yn and the ramp pulses "610" in Figure 27 are being amended to be "710" to correspond with the descriptions in the specification (see page 73). Applicants submit no new matter has been added. Replacement Figures 1 and 27 are included herewith.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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